

ABSTRACT

5 A tank for containing compressed air for supplying the air to one or more pneumatically-
operated components, devices, or systems of a heavy-duty vehicle such as a tractor-trailer or
straight truck, also serves as part of the structure of the frame or subframe of the vehicle. The
frame or subframe includes a pair of spaced-apart, parallel, elongated and longitudinally
extending main members. One or more of the tanks serve as interconnecting cross members of
the frame or subframe structure. Each tank/cross member generally extends between and is
perpendicular to the main members and is secured to the main members and/or suspension
10 hangers to form a rigid, integrated frame or subframe structure having reduced weight, yet which
is capable of reacting the loads placed on the structure during operation of the vehicle.